



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANET NAPOLITANO
GOVERNOR

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Dear Community Members, Policy Makers, and Advocates:

The crimes of domestic violence and sexual assault have far reaching consequences in communities, affecting children and families throughout the State. We must begin to address the unmet needs of the victims and the children, and we must do more to both prevent abuse and hold offenders accountable for their crimes.

In Arizona today, 2 out of every 3 women who seek shelter will be turned away, a child will witness domestic violence every 36 minutes, and nationwide, a woman will be raped every two minutes. These are all reasons why I directed my Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women to develop the *State Plan on Domestic and Sexual Violence*. This blueprint will assist with identifying ways to improve Arizona's response to these public health and safety issues.

I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of those who helped to create this State Plan. However, documents like this get created every year with the best of intentions, but wind up collecting dust on bookshelves. Now we must roll up our sleeves and get to work on some very tough issues that will take significant leadership from all areas of the community, including the courts, law enforcement, social services, business leaders, elected officials, and clergy. I want to encourage every citizen to familiarize him or herself with this important State Plan and join me in working to end violence against women in Arizona.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Napolitano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janet Napolitano
Governor